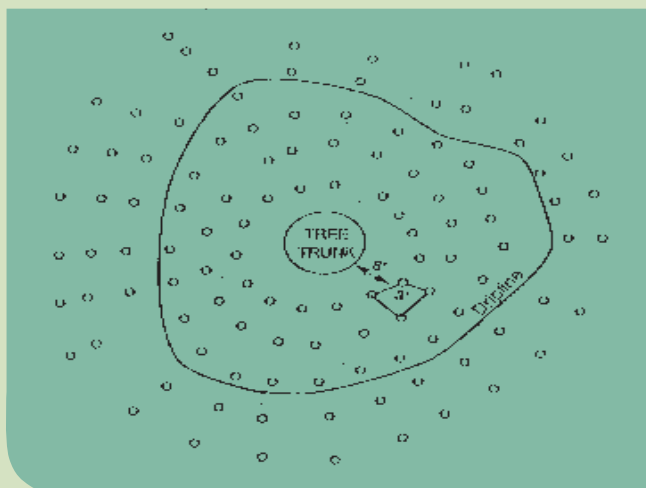


# Vertical Mulching



## Description

Vertical mulching is the process of making many holes in the soil of the root zone of a particular tree with the purpose of creating many entryways for air, moisture, and nutrients to reach the roots of a given tree. This process improves the overall health and vigor of any tree.

## Procedure

To properly vertical mulch, you will need an electric or gasoline powered drill and a 3" diameter auger. This equipment is available from any tool rental. Starting 8 ft. away from the trunk, drill holes on 3-4 ft. centers 20" deep in all directions. Discard the soil that is removed from the hole. The holes should cover at least the area shaded by your tree at high noon. Feeder roots actually grow a minimum of 25% beyond this area. If this area includes your neighbor's yard get permission to drill on their property.

Back fill the holes half way with a mixture of 50% peat moss and 50% course sand or use straight pea gravel. (In addition

*Apply two pounds of 10-10-10 or 10-6-4 fertilizer for every inch of tree diameter.*

to peat moss, you may also use organic matter, mushroom compost, or whatever is locally available.) Measure the diameter of the tree at chest height. You want to ap-

